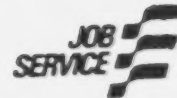




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LOUISIANA



LABOR MARKET INFORMATION

LOUISIANA
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

Dudley J. Patin, Jr., Secretary

BATON ROUGE
P.O. BOX 44094

MARCH 1984

RELEASE DATE:
APRIL 25, 1984

LOUISIANA CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE SUMMARY

(in thousands)	PRELIMINARY MARCH 1984				REVISED FEBRUARY 1984				REVISED MARCH 1983			
	Labor Force	Empl.	Unemp.	Rate	Labor Force	Empl.	Unemp.	Rate	Labor Force	Empl.	Unemp.	Rate
LOUISIANA	1,896.0	1,722.8	173.2	9.1	1,896.0	1,703.9	192.1	10.1	1,897.2	1,656.8	240.4	12.7
LABOR MARKET AREAS:												
Alexandria 1/	77.0	69.8	7.2	9.3	77.0	69.0	8.0	10.4	75.8	66.1	9.7	12.7
Baton Rouge 2/	240.8	223.7	17.1	7.1	242.2	222.5	19.7	8.1	236.5	212.8	23.7	10.0
Lafayette 3/	96.5	90.7	5.8	6.0	96.0	89.6	6.4	6.7	96.8	88.9	7.9	8.1
Lake Charles 4/	75.6	65.4	10.2	13.6	76.1	65.2	10.9	14.4	77.3	66.0	11.3	14.7
Monroe 5/	57.5	52.4	5.1	8.9	58.8	53.0	5.8	9.9	60.4	53.0	7.4	12.3
New Orleans 6/	529.7	487.7	42.0	7.9	530.3	484.1	46.2	8.7	528.3	469.4	58.9	11.2
Shreveport 7/	168.8	155.4	13.4	7.9	168.3	153.4	14.9	8.9	168.4	147.8	20.6	12.2

EMPLOYMENT AND PAYROLL TRENDS

Total nonagricultural employment in Louisiana during March stood at 1,566,900, an increase of 4,400 workers above February's level and 15,200 above the comparable period a year ago. The state's nonmanufacturing employment increase was centered in construction, services and trade. The durable goods sector was responsible for most of the increase in manufacturing payrolls.

1/ Includes Avoyelles, Grant, & Rapides parishes. 2/ Includes Ascension, East Baton Rouge, Livingston, and West Baton Rouge parishes. 3/ Lafayette Parish only. 4/ Calcasieu Parish only. 5/ Ouachita Parish only. 6/ Includes Jefferson, Orleans, St. Bernard, and St. Tammany parishes. 7/ Includes Bossier, Caddo, and Webster parishes.

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Durable goods employment for March, at 79,700, was 1,500 higher than last month but 800 lower than March a year ago. Decreased production of household furniture and of public building and related furniture accounted for the decline in furniture and fixtures employment. Pottery and related products was among the several segments of the stone, clay and glass products industry experiencing increased activity in March. Fabricated metal products employment edged upward due to increased need for ordnance and accessories. Machinery, except electrical, payrolls were up for the current month largely as a result of increased demand for engines and turbines and for construction and related machinery. More employees engaged in manufacturing communication equipment accounted for the higher level in electric and electronic equipment. Increased production of motor vehicles and equipment and of guided missiles, space vehicles and parts pushed the transportation equipment employment level above last month's figure. The instruments and related products segment and certain miscellaneous manufacturing industries were responsible for the other durable goods upswing.

Estimated employment in the nondurable goods segment of manufacturing for March amounted to 97,500, an increase of 200 above last month's level, but a drop of 1,100 from March of last year. A dropoff in the production of paperboard and certain converted paper products accounted for the cutback in paper and allied products employment. Increased activity at newspapers caused printing and publishing employment to rise slightly in March. Employee additions in the industrial organic chemicals segment were responsible for the increase in chemicals and allied products payrolls. Increased production of refined petroleum resulted in a higher employment level for the petroleum and coal products industry. Other nondurable goods payrolls slipped below the previous level as both textile mill products and rubber and miscellaneous products employment fell.

Nonmanufacturing employment for March, at 1,389,700, was up by 2,700 over February's level and 17,100 higher than March a year ago. A decrease in the production of crude petroleum and natural gas was responsible for the lower employment level in mining this month. Employment in construction was up as a result of increased business throughout most of the construction industry. Decreased need for marine cargo handling was primary in forcing transportation and public utilities below last month's figure. Trade employment moved up due to more business for general merchandise, apparel and accessories stores and for certain miscellaneous retail trade establishments. Among the segments most instrumental in the higher payroll level exhibited for services in March were hotels and other lodging places, personnel supply services, and educational services. Government payrolls for March were lower than February's as a result of downturns in federal government, except defense, and in local education. Finance, insurance and real estate employment edged upward for the current month.

Average weekly earnings of Louisiana's 122,500 production workers in manufacturing decreased from \$421.17 in February to \$418.84 in March, a decrease of \$2.33 but an increase of \$34.32 above the comparable period a year ago. Average hourly earnings were eight cents lower in March than last month, but \$0.39 more than March of last year. Weekly hours averaged 41.8 for the current month, up by 0.1 hours from February's figure.

Estimated total unemployment in the state for March amounted to 173,200, a decrease of 18,900 from the February level of 192,100. The unemployment rate for March was 9.1 percent compared to 10.1 percent last month and 12.7 percent in March of last year. The comparable national unemployment rate for March was 8.1 percent compared to 8.4 percent in February and 10.8 percent in March a year ago. Louisiana's civilian labor force was estimated at 1,896,000, no change from February's level. The estimated total employment for Louisiana moved from 1,703,900 in February to 1,722,800 in March, an increase of 18,900.

Unemployment should decline until schools begin the summer vacation period when youths seek employment for the summer. Nonmanufacturing segments such as trade and services are expected to show employment growth over the next month or two. Manufacturing employment may fall slightly next month.

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LOUISIANA
NONAGRICULTURAL WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT
(In Thousands by Industry)

	Mar. 1984*	Feb. 1984**	Mar. 1983**	Net Change from	
				Feb. 1984	Mar. 1983
NONAGRICULTURAL WAGE AND SALARIED WORKERS	1,566.9	1,562.5	1,551.7	+ 4.4	+ 15.2
MINING AND QUARRYING	78.6	80.0	82.9	- 1.4	- 4.3
Oil and Gas Extraction	75.4	76.8	79.8	- 1.4	- 4.4
Nonmetallic Minerals	3.2	3.2	3.1	0	+ 0.1
CONSTRUCTION	113.9	111.8	111.1	+ 2.1	+ 2.8
MANUFACTURING	177.2	175.5	179.1	+ 1.7	- 1.9
Durable Goods	79.7	78.2	80.5	+ 1.5	- 0.8
Lumber and Wood Products	13.1	13.1	12.8	0	+ 0.3
Furniture and Fixtures	0.7	0.8	0.7	- 0.1	0
Stone, Clay & Glass Products	7.4	7.2	7.2	+ 0.2	+ 0.2
Primary Metal Industries	3.4	3.4	3.8	0	- 0.4
Fabricated Metal Products	13.3	13.2	13.9	+ 0.1	- 0.6
Machinery, Except Electrical	9.7	9.5	10.3	+ 0.2	- 0.6
Electric & Electronic Equipment	9.5	8.7	8.3	+ 0.8	+ 1.2
Transportation Equipment	20.3	20.1	21.2	+ 0.2	- 0.9
Other Durable Goods (1)	2.3	2.2	2.3	+ 0.1	0
Nondurable Goods	97.5	97.3	98.6	+ 0.2	- 1.1
Food & Kindred Products	21.5	21.5	21.9	0	- 0.4
Apparel & Other Textile Products	8.9	8.9	7.8	0	+ 1.1
Paper & Allied Products	11.6	11.7	11.6	- 0.1	0
Printing & Publishing	9.9	9.8	9.6	+ 0.1	+ 0.3
Chemicals & Allied Products	29.3	29.1	30.7	+ 0.2	- 1.4
Petroleum and Coal Products	12.5	12.4	13.1	+ 0.1	- 0.6
Petroleum Refining	11.9	11.7	12.4	+ 0.2	- 0.5
Other Nondurable Goods (2)	3.8	3.9	3.9	- 0.1	- 0.1
TRANSPORTATION AND PUBLIC UTILITIES	113.4	114.2	119.8	- 0.8	- 6.4
Railroad Transportation	7.1	7.1	7.0	0	+ 0.1
Transportation, ex. Railroads	66.3	67.2	69.8	- 0.9	- 3.5
Communications & Public Utilities	40.0	39.9	43.0	+ 0.1	- 3.0
WHOLESALE & RETAIL TRADE	368.9	368.0	356.4	+ 0.9	+ 12.5
Wholesale Trade	94.6	94.6	94.1	0	+ 0.5
Retail Trade	274.3	273.4	262.3	+ 0.9	+ 12.0
Gen. Merchandise, Apparel & Acc.	56.5	56.1	54.9	+ 0.4	+ 1.6
Food Stores	50.6	50.4	49.2	+ 0.2	+ 1.4
Auto Dealers & Service Stations	30.9	30.9	29.9	0	+ 1.0
Eating & Drinking Places	84.4	84.5	78.7	- 0.1	+ 5.7
Other Retail Trade	51.9	51.5	49.6	+ 0.4	+ 2.3
FINANCE, INSURANCE AND REAL ESTATE	83.6	83.5	81.1	+ 0.1	+ 2.5
Banking	27.8	27.8	27.1	0	+ 0.7
SERVICES	311.5	309.2	303.0	+ 2.3	+ 8.5
Hotels & Other Lodging Places	22.1	21.7	21.1	+ 0.4	+ 1.0
Other Services	289.4	287.5	281.9	+ 1.9	+ 7.5
GOVERNMENT	319.8	320.3	318.3	- 0.5	+ 1.5
Federal	34.2	34.4	33.9	- 0.2	+ 0.3
State and Local	285.6	285.9	284.4	- 0.3	+ 1.2
State	102.2	102.1	103.3	+ 0.1	- 1.1
Local	183.4	183.8	181.1	- 0.4	+ 2.3

* Preliminary

**Revised

(1) Includes Professional equipment and misc. manufacturing industries

(2) Includes leather, Rubber and Textile products.

All estimates of Nonagricultural wage and salaried workers in this publication prepared in cooperation with U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, and include all full time and part time workers who were employed during the pay period including the 12th of the month.

AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS IN MANUFACTURING AND SELECTED NONMANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES IN LOUISIANA

	Average			Average			Average		
	Weekly Earnings			Weekly Hours			Hourly Earnings		
	Mar. '84*	Feb. '84**	Mar. '83**	Mar. '84*	Feb. '84**	Mar. '83**	Mar. '84*	Feb. '84**	Mar. '83**
ALL MANUFACTURING (1)									
Durable Goods	\$418.84	\$421.17	\$384.52	41.8	41.7	39.6	\$10.02	\$10.10	\$9.71
Lumber & Wood Products	386.88	390.73	357.80	41.6	41.7	39.8	9.30	9.37	8.99
Stone, Clay, & Glass Pdts.	310.76	319.98	277.06	38.7	39.7	41.6	8.03	8.06	6.66
Fabricated Metal Products	373.92	379.48	367.08	41.5	42.4	42.0	9.01	8.95	8.74
Machinery, ex. Electrical	406.80	391.19	383.40	45.1	42.8	40.4	9.02	9.14	9.49
Electric & Electronic Equip.	406.43	388.01	374.94	41.6	40.8	40.1	9.77	9.51	9.35
Transportation Equipment	430.02	457.76	383.94	42.2	44.1	38.9	10.19	10.38	9.87
	422.50	433.48	386.51	40.2	40.1	39.2	10.51	10.81	9.86
Nondurable Goods									
Food & Kindred Products	447.49	448.69	412.12	41.9	41.7	39.4	10.68	10.76	10.46
Apparel & Other Textile Pdts.	284.70	286.94	247.88	39.0	39.2	36.4	7.30	7.32	6.81
Paper & Allied Products	206.51	182.67	152.68	38.6	36.1	34.7	5.35	5.06	4.40
Printing & Publishing	504.14	482.51	487.34	43.8	42.4	42.9	11.51	11.38	11.36
Chemicals & Allied Pdts.	309.96	307.84	316.09	37.3	37.0	37.1	8.31	8.32	8.52
Petroleum & Coal Products	628.49	633.91	574.67	42.9	43.3	42.1	14.65	14.64	13.65
Petroleum Refining	605.33	658.56	635.62	46.6	49.0	46.6	12.99	13.44	13.64
	610.37	668.02	652.37	46.7	49.3	46.3	13.07	13.55	14.09
MINING									
COMMUNICATIONS & PUBLIC UTILITIES	552.57	539.60	516.19	47.8	46.8	45.6	11.56	11.53	11.32
BANKING	473.96	466.36	439.99	40.2	40.1	38.8	11.79	11.63	11.34
	240.00	238.50	214.76	38.4	37.5	36.9	6.25	6.36	5.82

(1) Data in the average earnings table are for approximately 122,500 full and part-time workers in manufacturing and 101,100 nonsupervisory employees in communications, public utilities, mining and banking. The averages are computed on a "Gross" basis and reflect over-time, late shift work and incentive rates.

LOUISIANA EMPLOYMENT SITUATION BY LABOR MARKET AREA

PRELIMINARY MARCH 1984

REVISED FEBRUARY 1984

	<u>Labor Force</u>	<u>Empl.</u>	<u>Unemp.</u>	<u>Rate</u>	<u>Labor Force</u>	<u>Empl.¹</u>	<u>Unemp.</u>	<u>Rate</u>
Crowley (Acadia)	23,825	21,250	2,575	10.8	23,625	20,850	2,775	11.8
Oakdale (Allen)	6,375	5,100	1,275	20.0	6,400	4,975	1,425	22.2
Napoleonville (Assumption)	10,400	9,050	1,350	13.1	10,475	8,875	1,600	15.3
DeRidder (Beauregard)	11,850	10,500	1,350	11.3	11,775	10,300	1,475	12.5
Arcadia (Bienville)	7,100	6,475	625	8.7	7,025	6,350	675	9.5
Columbia (Caldwell)	4,700	4,200	500	10.5	4,650	4,075	575	12.4
Cameron (Cameron)	4,625	4,225	400	8.8	4,600	4,175	425	9.1
Jonesville (Catahoula)	6,350	5,675	675	10.6	6,300	5,575	725	11.5
Homer (Claiborne)	7,300	6,750	550	7.4	7,250	6,675	575	7.9
Ferriday (Concordia)	9,025	7,900	1,125	12.4	8,975	7,725	1,250	14.1
Mansfield (DeSoto)	11,200	10,000	1,200	10.8	11,075	9,700	1,375	12.4
Lake Providence (E.Carroll)	4,850	3,975	875	17.9	4,750	3,800	950	20.2
Clinton (East Feliciana)	7,700	7,100	600	7.8	7,575	6,925	650	8.5
Ville Platte (Evangeline)	13,900	12,125	1,775	12.8	13,875	11,900	1,975	14.2
Winnsboro (Franklin)	8,625	7,325	1,300	15.2	8,650	7,150	1,500	17.2
New Iberia (Iberia)	36,000	31,850	4,150	11.5	36,200	31,500	4,700	13.0
Plaquemine (Iberville)	14,900	13,450	1,450	9.7	14,850	13,200	1,650	11.2
Jonesboro (Jackson)	6,125	5,675	450	7.3	6,050	5,550	500	8.4
Jennings (Jefferson Davis)	12,850	11,150	1,700	13.3	12,750	10,900	1,850	14.6
Thibodaux (Lafourche)	37,900	34,025	3,875	10.2	37,900	33,675	4,225	11.2
Jena (LaSalle)	5,950	5,450	500	8.4	5,900	5,325	575	9.8
Ruston (Lincoln)	21,500	20,650	850	4.0	21,225	20,275	950	4.5
Tallulah (Madison)	5,375	4,575	800	14.9	5,300	4,375	925	17.3
Bastrop (Morehouse)	13,200	11,600	1,600	12.1	13,075	11,375	1,700	12.9
Natchitoches (Natchitoches)	17,175	15,750	1,425	8.2	17,050	15,475	1,575	9.2
Point-a-la-Hache(Plaquem.)	14,375	13,350	1,025	7.1	14,200	13,075	1,125	7.9
New Roads (Pointe Coupee)	12,875	11,725	1,150	8.9	12,750	11,375	1,375	10.9
Coushatta (Red River)	4,150	3,800	350	8.4	4,125	3,725	400	9.7
Rayville (Richland)	8,000	7,000	1,000	12.5	7,925	6,775	1,150	14.4
Many (Sabine)	8,000	7,325	675	8.4	7,975	7,225	750	9.5
Norco (St. Charles)	21,775	19,775	2,000	9.2	21,700	19,475	2,225	10.3
Greensburg (St. Helena)	4,225	3,875	350	8.2	4,175	3,800	375	9.1
Lutcher (St. James)	10,950	9,775	1,175	10.8	10,750	9,450	1,300	12.0
Reserve (St. John)	17,375	15,575	1,800	10.3	17,400	15,375	2,025	11.6
Opelousas (St. Landry)	34,075	28,825	5,250	15.4	33,700	28,375	5,325	15.8
St. Martinville (St. Martin)	19,075	16,675	2,400	12.5	19,075	16,375	2,700	14.1
Morgan City (St. Mary)	32,325	28,375	3,950	12.2	32,600	28,125	4,475	13.7
Hammond (Tangipahoa)	33,700	29,175	4,525	13.4	33,750	28,625	5,125	15.2
St. Joseph (Tensas)	3,000	2,600	400	13.1	2,975	2,500	475	15.7
Houma (Terrebonne)	45,325	40,675	4,650	10.2	45,450	40,200	5,250	11.6
Farmerville (Union)	7,650	6,825	825	10.7	7,625	6,725	900	11.8
Abbeville (Vermilion)	24,350	21,675	2,675	11.0	24,175	21,250	2,925	12.1
Leesville (Vernon)	12,150	10,725	1,425	11.7	12,025	10,500	1,525	12.7
Bogalusa (Washington)	14,425	12,425	2,000	13.9	14,450	12,225	2,225	15.4
Oak Grove (West Carroll)	4,200	3,225	975	23.1	4,150	3,125	1,025	24.9
St. Francisville (W.Felic.)	3,725	3,475	250	6.7	3,550	3,250	300	8.3
Winnfield (Winn)	5,575	5,000	575	10.1	5,475	4,850	625	11.3

Note: Labor Market Areas are designated by name of principal Town, but include all of parish in parenthesis.

Above data rounded to nearest 25 except LMA's and Statewide which are rounded to nearest 100.
Subtotals may not add to totals due to rounding. Rates computed from unrounded data.

ALEXANDRIA AREA (1)
Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment
(In Thousands by Industry)

	Mar. 1984*	Feb. 1984**	Mar. 1983**	Net Change From	
				Feb. 1984	Mar. 1983
NONAGRICULTURAL WAGE					
AND SALARIED WORKERS	54.2	54.0	52.6	+ 0.2	+ 1.6
MANUFACTURING	5.3	5.3	4.9	0	+ 0.4
Durable Goods	2.8	2.8	2.8	0	0
Lumber & Wood Products	1.2	1.2	1.2	0	0
Other Durable Goods	1.6	1.6	1.6	0	0
Nondurable Goods	2.5	2.5	2.1	0	+ 0.4
Food & Kindred Products	0.6	0.6	0.6	0	0
Other Nondurable Goods	1.9	1.9	1.5	0	+ 0.4
NONMANUFACTURING	48.9	48.7	47.7	+ 0.2	+ 1.2
Construction	3.4	3.2	3.1	+ 0.2	+ 0.3
Trans., Comm., & Pub. Utilities	2.5	2.5	2.5	0	0
Wholesale & Retail Trade	12.3	12.3	11.9	0	+ 0.4
Wholesale Trade	2.8	2.8	2.7	0	+ 0.1
Retail Trade	9.5	9.5	9.2	0	+ 0.3
Gen. Mdse., App. & Acc.	1.9	1.9	1.8	0	+ 0.1
Auto Dtrs. & Svc. Sta.	1.2	1.2	1.2	0	0
Eating & Drinking Places	2.3	2.3	2.1	0	+ 0.2
Other Retail Trade	4.1	4.1	4.1	0	0
Finance, Ins., & Real Estate	2.9	2.9	2.8	0	+ 0.1
Services & Mining	11.8	11.8	11.5	0	+ 0.3
Health Services	5.2	5.2	5.0	0	+ 0.2
Other Services & Mining	6.6	6.6	6.5	0	+ 0.1
Government	16.0	16.0	15.9	0	+ 0.1
Federal	2.8	2.8	2.8	0	0
State	5.9	5.9	5.9	0	0
Local	7.3	7.3	7.2	0	+ 0.1

- (1) Geographic coverage of data now published for this area differs from the standard definition. Data also includes Avoyelles Parish.

EMPLOYMENT AND PAYROLL TRENDS

Total nonagricultural employment in the Alexandria Labor Market Area during March was estimated at 54,200. This employment estimate is 200 over last month and 1,600 above this month a year ago.

Total manufacturing employment unchanged since the previous month, has increased 400 from March of last year. The increase was in nondurable goods.

Total employment in nonmanufacturing for March increased 200 since last month. The increase was in construction and was an estimated seasonal increase. Compared to this month a year ago, employment in the nonmanufacturing industries has increased 1,200. There were gains in each major segment, except transportation, communication, and utilities.

Total employment should increase slightly during the next thirty days with the number of unemployed decreasing. These conditions will depend upon the weather and Easter sales.

BATON ROUGE AREA
Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment
(In Thousands by Industry)

	Mar. 1984*	Feb. 1984**	Mar. 1983**	Net Change From	
				Feb. 1984	Mar. 1983
NONAGRICULTURAL WAGE AND SALARIED WORKERS	208.3	208.4	204.1	- 0.1	+ 4.2
MANUFACTURING	21.8	21.8	22.7	0	- 0.9
Durable Goods	4.1	4.0	3.9	+ 0.1	+ 0.2
Lumber and Wood Products	0.5	0.5	0.4	0	+ 0.1
Stone, Clay & Glass Products	0.9	0.9	0.8	0	+ 0.1
Fabricated Metal Products	0.9	0.9	1.0	0	- 0.1
Other Durable Goods	1.8	1.7	1.7	+ 0.1	+ 0.1
Nondurable Goods	17.7	17.8	18.8	- 0.1	- 1.1
Food & Kindred Products	2.1	2.1	2.0	0	+ 0.1
Printing & Publishing	1.5	1.5	1.5	0	0
Chemicals and Petroleum Products	13.0	13.1	14.2	- 0.1	- 1.2
Other Nondurable Goods	1.1	1.1	1.1	0	0
NONMANUFACTURING	186.5	186.6	181.4	- 0.1	+ 5.1
Mining	0.9	0.9	1.1	0	- 0.2
Construction	20.4	19.8	20.9	+ 0.6	- 0.5
Transportation and Public Utilities	10.1	10.1	10.3	0	- 0.2
Wholesale & Retail Trade	49.5	49.9	46.2	- 0.4	+ 3.3
Wholesale Trade	11.5	11.4	11.1	+ 0.1	+ 0.4
Retail Trade	38.0	38.5	35.1	- 0.5	+ 2.9
Finance, Ins. & Real Estate	12.3	12.3	12.1	0	+ 0.2
Services	39.1	39.0	38.0	+ 0.1	+ 1.1
Government	54.2	54.6	52.8	- 0.4	+ 1.4

BATON ROUGE AREA
AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS IN MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES

	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings		
	Mar. '84*	Feb. '84**	Mar. '83**	Mar. '84*	Feb. '84**	Mar. '83**	Mar. '84*	Feb. '84**	Mar. '83**
All MANUFACTURING (1)	\$486.22	\$492.46	\$520.83	41.7	42.6	41.6	\$11.66	\$11.56	\$12.52
Petro-Chemicals	655.85	651.94	626.93	45.2	45.4	44.4	14.51	14.36	14.12

Data in the average earnings table are for approximately 11,700 production workers and are computed on a "gross" basis and reflect overtime, late shift work and incentive rates.

BATON ROUGE AREA

EMPLOYMENT AND PAYROLL TRENDS

Nonagricultural employment in the Baton Rouge LMA was estimated at 208,300 during March, down 100 from February's revised estimate of 208,400 and up 4,200 over the total for last March. Manufacturing had no change and nonmanufacturing was down 100 during the current period.

Employment in manufacturing, at 21,800 in March, was unchanged from February's revised estimate. Durable goods were up due to a seasonal increase in blast furnaces, steel works, and rolling and finishing mills. Nondurable goods were down due to less business in industrial organic chemicals.

Estimated employment in nonmanufacturing at 186,500 during March was down 100 from February's revised estimate. Mining, transportation and public utilities, and finance, insurance, and real estate had no change during the current period. Construction was up due to more business in general building contractors-nonresidential buildings, electrical works, and miscellaneous special trade contractors. Wholesale trade was up due to more orders for machinery, equipment and supplies while retail trade was down due to seasonal adjustments in all major groups except apparel and accessory stores.

Services were up due to increases in elementary and secondary schools and in social services, not elsewhere classified. Government was down due to reductions in the administration of environmental quality programs and in public hospitals.

Average weekly earnings of Baton Rouge LMA's estimated 11,700 production workers in all manufacturing industries was \$486.22 in March, down \$6.24 from February's revised average. Average weekly hours were down 0.9 hours and average hourly earnings were up \$0.10. Less overtime worked at premium pay contributed to these changes.

Total employment of Baton Rouge LMA's residents was estimated at 223,700 during March, up 1,200 over February's revised estimate and up 10,900 over March of last year. Unemployment at 17,100 was down 2,600 from last month's revised estimate. March's unemployment rate at 7.1 percent is down from the revised 8.1 percent for last month. The state's revised February rate of 10.1 percent dropped to 9.1 percent in March. The local civilian labor force totaled 240,800 during March, down 1,400 from February's revised estimate and up 4,300 over the total for last March.

The Baton Rouge and Gonzales Job Service Offices served 2,100 individuals with new or renewal applications, and placed 533 applicants in jobs during March.

The consumer price index for February, 1984 for all urban consumers was 306.6 and for all urban wage and clerical workers 303.3 using base period 1967=100.

Unemployment and the unemployment rate is expected to drop some during the coming month due to seasonal changes.

LAFAYETTE AREA
Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment
(In Thousands by Industry)

	Mar. 1984*	Feb. 1984**	Mar. 1983**	Net Change From	
				Feb. 1984	Mar. 1983
NONAGRICULTURAL WAGE AND SALARIED WORKERS	88.8	88.1	89.6	+ 0.7	- 0.8
MANUFACTURING	3.8	3.8	3.9	0	- 0.1
Durable Goods	2.1	2.1	2.1	0	0
Nondurable Goods	1.7	1.7	1.8	0	- 0.1
Food & Kindred Products	1.1	1.1	1.1	0	0
NONMANUFACTURING	85.0	84.3	85.7	+ 0.7	- 0.7
Mining	17.6	17.0	17.6	+ 0.6	0
Construction	4.9	5.0	5.4	- 0.1	- 0.5
Trans., Comm. & Pub. Utilities	6.7	6.7	7.2	0	- 0.5
Wholesale & Retail Trade	23.3	23.4	22.5	- 0.1	+ 0.8
Wholesale Trade	6.5	6.5	6.6	0	- 0.1
Retail Trade	16.8	16.9	15.9	- 0.1	+ 0.9
Gen. Mdse., App. & Acc.	2.6	2.7	2.3	- 0.1	+ 0.3
Food Stores	2.5	2.5	2.3	0	+ 0.2
Auto. Dlrs. & Serv. Sta.	1.5	1.5	1.6	0	- 0.1
Other Retail Trade	10.2	10.2	9.7	0	+ 0.5
Finance, Ins. & Real Estate	3.8	3.8	3.8	0	0
Services	18.4	18.3	18.2	+ 0.1	+ 0.2
Government	10.3	10.1	11.0	+ 0.2	- 0.7

EMPLOYMENT AND PAYROLL TRENDS

Lafayette's nonagricultural employment in March stood at 88,800, an increase of 700 over the previous month, and 800 less than the same period a year ago. The increase over the previous month was in the nonmanufacturing sector. Manufacturing remained the same.

The largest increase in the nonmanufacturing segment was in mining. There was an increase of 600 over the previous month.

Construction dipped slightly with a 100 decrease from the previous month.

Other areas of estimated employment remained relatively stable.

From all indications employment is on the upswing in the oil industry. Many experts caution that it will be a gradual increase.

LAKE CHARLES AREA
Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment
(In Thousands by Industry)

	Mar. 1984*	Feb. 1984**	Mar. 1983**	Net Change From	
				Feb. 1984	Mar. 1983
NONAGRICULTURAL WAGE					
AND SALARIED WORKERS	58.9	58.8	61.3	+ 0.1	- 2.4
MANUFACTURING	9.4	9.2	9.8	+ 0.2	- 0.4
Durable Goods	0.7	0.8	0.8	- 0.1	- 0.1
Lumber & Wood Products	0.1	0.1	0.1	0	0
Stone, Clay & Glass Prod.	0.2	0.2	0.2	0	0
Other Durable Goods	0.4	0.5	0.5	- 0.1	- 0.1
Nondurable Goods	8.7	8.4	9.0	+ 0.3	- 0.3
Food & Kindred Products	0.4	0.4	0.5	0	- 0.1
Chemical & Pet Products	7.9	7.6	8.1	+ 0.3	- 0.2
Other Nondurable Goods	0.4	0.4	0.4	0	0
NONMANUFACTURING	49.5	49.6	51.5	- 0.1	- 2.0
Mining	2.4	2.4	2.4	0	0
Construction	4.7	4.8	6.7	- 0.1	- 2.0
Trans., Comm. & Pub. & Utilities	4.3	4.3	4.2	0	+ 0.1
Wholesale & Retail Trade	13.8	13.8	14.1	0	- 0.3
Wholesale Trade	3.3	3.3	3.2	0	+ 0.1
Retail Trade	10.5	10.5	10.9	0	- 0.4
Gen. Mdse., App. & Acc.	2.1	2.1	2.3	0	- 0.2
Auto Dlrs. & Serv. Sta.	1.2	1.2	1.1	0	+ 0.1
Eating & Drinking Places	3.3	3.3	3.1	0	+ 0.2
Finance, Ins. & Real Estate	3.0	2.9	2.8	+ 0.1	+ 0.2
Services	10.8	10.9	10.8	- 0.1	0
Hotels & Other Lodg. Places	0.8	0.8	0.8	0	0
Personal Services	0.6	0.6	0.6	0	0
Government	10.5	10.5	10.5	0	0

EMPLOYMENT AND PAYROLL TRENDS

Nonagricultural wage and salary employment edged upward 100 to the current estimate of 58,900. All of the increase occurred in the manufacturing sector. The current estimate falls 2400 workers less than the March 1983 level. The nonmanufacturing sector suffered this loss.

Manufacturing employment increased 200 over the mid-February total. An increase of 300 in nondurable goods was reduced by a loss of 100 in durable goods. The 300 gain in nondurable goods is probably temporary since it was brought on by a "turnaround" type situation.

Employment on nonmanufacturing payrolls dipped 100 below the month ago level and this occurred in construction. All other nonfactory industry groups remained unchanged. The current nonmanufacturing estimate reflects a decline of 2000 jobs during the 12 month period beginning in March 1983.

The outlook is for little change in employment but unemployment may edge downward during the next 30 days.

MONROE AREA
Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment
(In Thousands by Industry)

	Mar. 1984*	Feb. 1984**	Mar. 1983**	Net Change From	
				Feb. 1984	Mar. 1983
NONAGRICULTURAL WAGE AND SALARIED WORKERS	49.5	50.3	51.5	- 0.8	- 2.0
MANUFACTURING	6.8	6.9	7.1	- 0.1	- 0.3
Durable Goods	2.2	2.2	2.0	0	+ 0.2
Lumber & Wood Products	0.2	0.2	0.2	0	0
Other Durable Goods	2.0	2.0	1.8	0	+ 0.2
Nondurable Goods	4.6	4.7	5.1	- 0.1	- 0.5
Food & Kindred Products	0.9	0.9	0.9	0	0
Chemical & Allied Products	0.8	0.8	0.8	0	0
Other Nondurable Goods	2.9	3.0	3.4	- 0.1	- 0.5
NONMANUFACTURING	42.7	43.4	44.4	- 0.7	- 1.7
Mining	0.5	0.6	0.6	- 0.1	- 0.1
Construction	2.5	2.7	2.9	- 0.2	- 0.4
Trans., Comm. & Pub. Utilities	2.6	2.6	2.7	0	- 0.1
Wholesale & Retail Trade	14.0	14.2	13.6	- 0.2	+ 0.4
Wholesale Trade	4.0	4.0	4.0	0	0
Retail Trade	10.0	10.2	9.6	- 0.2	+ 0.4
Gen. Mdse., App. & Acc.	2.7	2.8	2.8	- 0.1	- 0.1
Auto Dealers & Serv. Sta.	1.2	1.2	1.1	0	+ 0.1
Eating & Drinking Places	2.7	2.7	2.6	0	+ 0.1
Finance, Ins. & Real Estate	4.1	4.1	3.9	0	+ 0.2
Services	10.1	10.0	10.0	+ 0.1	+ 0.1
Hotels & Other Lodg. Places	0.5	0.5	0.5	0	0
Personal Services	0.5	0.5	0.5	0	0
Health Services	4.2	4.0	4.1	+ 0.2	+ 0.1
Government	8.9	9.2	10.7	- 0.3	- 1.8

EMPLOYMENT AND PAYROLL TRENDS

Total nonagricultural wage and salary employment declined by 800 to an estimated 49,500 during mid March.

Manufacturing declined by 100 to an estimated 6,800. The loss was in nondurable goods.

Nonmanufacturing was down by an estimated 700. Government experienced the largest decline, 300 workers, as it dropped to 42,700. Inclement weather was a major factor in the decline of construction as it reached a level of 2,500, down 200 from the February estimate. Mining was down by 100, to an estimated 500 workers. Wholesale and retail trade was down by 200, the loss being in retail trade. Services was the only segment with a gain in employment, 100 workers to an estimated 10,100. All other segments were unchanged.

Employment should begin an upward movement over the next 30 to 60 days, while unemployment is expected to continue a downward movement.

NEW ORLEANS AREA
Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment
(In Thousands by Industry)

	Mar. 1984*	Feb. 1984**	Mar. 1983**	Net Change From	
				Feb. 1984	Mar. 1983
NONAGRICULTURAL WAGE AND SALARIED WORKERS	506.3	505.5	502.0	+ 0.8	+ 4.3
MANUFACTURING	39.1	39.0	41.2	+ 0.1	- 2.1
Durable Goods	22.7	22.6	24.4	+ 0.1	- 1.7
Lumber and Wood Products	0.5	0.5	0.4	0	+ 0.1
Stone, Clay & Glass Products	2.6	2.5	2.4	+ 0.1	+ 0.2
Fabricated Metal Products	3.2	3.1	3.3	+ 0.1	- 0.1
Machinery, Except Electrical	2.9	2.9	3.0	0	- 0.1
Transportation Equipment	12.2	12.3	13.7	- 0.1	- 1.5
Ship and Boatbuilding & Repairing	7.5	7.6	9.3	- 0.1	- 1.8
Other Durable Goods	1.3	1.3	1.6	0	- 0.3
Nondurable Goods	16.4	16.4	16.8	0	- 0.4
Food & Kindred Products	6.8	6.8	7.2	0	- 0.4
Apparel & Other Textile Products	1.8	1.8	1.9	0	- 0.1
Paper & Allied Products	1.1	1.1	1.1	0	0
Printing & Publishing	3.2	3.2	3.2	0	0
Chemicals and Allied Products	1.8	1.8	1.7	0	+ 0.1
Petroleum & Coal Products	1.5	1.5	1.5	0	0
Other Nondurable Goods	0.2	0.2	0.2	0	0
NONMANUFACTURING	467.2	466.5	460.8	+ 0.7	+ 6.4
Mining	18.4	18.5	19.2	- 0.1	- 0.8
Construction	32.9	32.5	29.0	+ 0.4	+ 3.9
Trans., Comm. & Pub. Utilities	46.5	46.7	47.7	- 0.2	- 1.2
Railroad Transportation	2.0	2.0	2.0	0	0
Water Transportation	16.0	16.2	16.5	- 0.2	- 0.5
WHOLESALE & RETAIL TRADE	129.3	128.5	125.7	+ 0.8	+ 3.6
Wholesale Trade	34.5	34.5	34.6	0	- 0.1
Retail Trade	94.8	94.0	91.1	+ 0.8	+ 3.7
Finance, Ins. & Real Estate	31.4	31.5	31.7	- 0.1	- 0.3
Services	123.9	123.9	123.3	0	+ 0.6
Government	84.8	84.9	84.2	- 0.1	+ 0.6
Federal	14.9	15.1	14.8	- 0.2	+ 0.1
State	20.7	20.6	22.0	+ 0.1	- 1.3
Local	49.2	49.2	47.4	0	+ 1.8

NEW ORLEANS AREA
AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS IN MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES

	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings		
	Mar. '84*	Feb. '84**	Mar. '83**	Mar. '84*	Feb. '84**	Mar. '83**	Mar. '84*	Feb. '84**	Mar. '83**
All MANUFACTURING	\$396.47	\$395.60	\$346.50	41.0	40.7	38.5	\$9.67	\$9.72	\$9.00
Durable Goods	417.66	414.12	369.26	41.6	40.8	39.2	10.04	10.15	9.42
Stone, Clay, & Glass Pmts.	402.12	418.69	371.42	44.4	42.4	42.4	9.33	9.43	8.76
Fabricated Metal Products	467.17	446.90	397.31	46.3	42.2	38.8	10.09	10.59	10.24
Ship & Boatbuilding and Repairing	382.76	381.90	359.46	38.2	37.7	38.2	10.02	10.13	9.41
Nondurable Goods	367.03	369.87	312.38	40.2	40.6	37.5	9.13	9.11	8.33
Food & Kindred Products	294.86	319.59	263.67	37.9	39.8	37.4	7.78	8.03	7.05
Apparel & Other Textile Pmts.	197.26	189.59	124.99	35.8	36.6	28.8	5.51	5.18	4.34
Paper & Allied Products	413.08	372.52	320.31	47.7	44.4	40.7	8.66	8.39	7.87
Printing & Publishing	381.38	379.85	292.79	42.9	42.3	39.3	8.89	8.98	7.45
Chemicals & Allied Pmts.	637.69	580.37	564.71	43.0	40.9	42.3	14.83	14.19	13.35

Data in the average earnings table are for approximately 25,700 production workers and are computed on a "gross" basis and reflect overtime, late shift work and incentive rates.

NEW ORLEANS AREA

EMPLOYMENT AND PAYROLL TRENDS

Nonagricultural wage and salary employment in the New Orleans Labor Market Area in March pushed up to 506,300, a level 800 above February. Manufacturing showed only small changes. Nonmanufacturing was boosted mainly by gains in retail trade and construction.

Total employment in manufacturing was 39,100 in March, 100 above last month. Stone, clay and glass products and fabricated metal products edged up in the durable goods sector. Ship and boatbuilding and repairing decreased due to a strike affecting some local ship repair firms. Additional hiring at some area shipyards offset some of the decrease due to the strike. The nondurable goods sector held steady over the month. Manufacturing employment is down 1,700 compared to this time last year.

Nonmanufacturing registered an overall increase of 700. Construction activity was highlighted by the acceleration of work involving preparation for the 1984 World's Fair. Retail trade exhibited a gain in employment by eating and drinking places, general merchandise stores, miscellaneous stores, and automotive dealers and service stations. Wholesale trade displayed no total change. In services, decreases in private health services and miscellaneous services offset an increase in the hotel-motel industry and a normal seasonal upturn in private educational services. More unfavorable were changes in other industry divisions. Mining tapered off. Water transportation eased down to the lowest level in several months. Motor freight transportation reduced employment. Finance reflected layoffs by banking. Government employment decreased as the federal sector made local downward adjustments.

Area production workers earned an average \$396.47 a week in March, \$0.87 above last month's average and \$49.97 above the March average last year. The drop of five cents an hour in average hourly pay was offset by the increase of 18 minutes in average weekly hours.

Estimated unemployment in March moved down to 42,000, a level 4,200 below February. An increase in employment was mostly responsible. Joblessness presently comprises 7.9 percent of the labor force compared to 8.7 percent in February and 11.2 percent in March of last year. The unemployment rate of 7.9 percent in March 1984 was the lowest in this labor market area since December 1981. For the first time in more than a year, this area's rate was lower than the comparable national rate, which in March 1984 was 8.1 percent. Recipients of regular unemployment insurance benefits numbered 12,955. Approximately 43.0 percent of the claimants were nonwhite; about 30.0 percent were female.

Nonagricultural wage and salary employment in the coming months is expected to show a large overall gain. All economic activity in the area will be highlighted by the opening of the 1984 World's Fair. Many segments of the economy are anticipated to benefit greatly from the fair, especially services and trade. Mining will be favored by better weather conditions and will hopefully increase activity both onshore and offshore. Unemployment will reflect the pre-summer increase in the number of entrants and reentrants into the labor force. Hopefully, the World's Fair and industries benefitting from it will absorb many of the jobless and bring an overall reduction in unemployment.

SHREVEPORT AREA
Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment
(In Thousands by Industry)

	Mar. 1984*	Feb. 1984**	Mar. 1983**	Net Change From	
				Feb. 1984	Mar. 1983
NONAGRICULTURAL WAGE AND SALARIED WORKERS	148.4	147.2	145.2	+ 1.2	+ 3.2
MANUFACTURING	24.9	24.7	22.5	+ 0.2	+ 2.4
Durable Goods	19.0	18.9	16.8	+ 0.1	+ 2.2
Lumber and Wood Products	1.5	1.5	1.4	0	+ 0.1
Metals and Machinery	11.5	11.5	11.2	0	+ 0.3
Primary and Fabricated Metals	3.9	3.9	3.5	0	+ 0.4
Machinery, Inc. Electrical	7.6	7.6	7.7	0	- 0.1
Other Durable Goods	6.0	5.9	4.2	+ 0.1	+ 1.8
Nondurable Good	5.9	5.8	5.7	+ 0.1	+ 0.2
Food & Kindred Products	1.5	1.5	1.5	0	0
Printing & Publishing	1.6	1.5	1.5	+ 0.1	+ 0.1
Petroleum & Coal Products	1.0	1.0	1.0	0	0
Other Nondurable Goods	1.8	1.8	1.7	0	+ 0.1
NONMANUFACTURING	123.5	122.5	122.7	+ 1.0	+ 0.8
Mining	6.2	6.4	6.4	- 0.2	- 0.2
Construction	8.8	8.5	8.5	+ 0.3	+ 0.3
Trans., Comm. & Pub. Utilities	9.3	9.4	9.2	- 0.1	+ 0.1
Wholesale and Retail Trade	33.5	32.8	33.8	+ 0.7	- 0.3
Wholesale Trade	9.2	9.0	9.0	+ 0.2	+ 0.2
Retail Trade	24.3	23.8	24.8	+ 0.5	- 0.5
Finance, Insurance, and Real Estate	8.1	8.1	7.9	0	+ 0.2
Services	31.4	31.0	30.5	+ 0.4	+ 0.9
Government	26.2	26.3	26.4	- 0.1	- 0.2

SHREVEPORT AREA
AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS IN MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES

	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings		
	Mar. '84*	Feb. '84**	Mar. '83**	Mar. '84*	Feb. '84**	Mar. '83**	Mar. '84*	Feb. '84**	Mar. '83**
All MANUFACTURING	\$395.09	415.75	366.81	40.9	41.7	39.4	\$9.66	\$9.97	\$9.31
Lumber and Wood Products	217.49	213.19	225.74	36.7	37.6	40.6	5.79	5.67	5.56
Metals and Machinery	403.33	427.77	376.51	42.5	44.1	39.8	9.49	9.70	9.46
Food and Kindred Products	211.25	218.24	206.22	33.8	35.2	34.6	6.25	6.20	5.96
Printing and Publishing	252.36	248.85	238.26	29.9	30.2	28.5	8.44	8.24	8.36
Petroleum and Coal Products	528.36	559.68	501.27	44.4	45.8	46.2	11.90	12.22	10.85

Data in the average earnings table are for approximately 18,300 production workers and are computed on a "gross" basis and reflect overtime, late shift work and incentive rates.

SHREVEPORT AREA

EMPLOYMENT AND PAYROLL TRENDS

The Shreveport area has 148,400 in nonagricultural wage and salary employment, compared to 147,200 for last month, and 145,200 for one year ago. Nonmanufacturing employment increased 1,000 during the past month, and 800 more than the year ago figure.

The manufacturing employment total for this area is 24,900, an increase of 200 from the previous month, and 2,400 more than one year ago. During the past year, 2,200 of the 2,400 total were added to durable goods manufacturing payroll.

The Shreveport area has an estimated 123,500 in nonmanufacturing employment, up from 122,500 in February and 122,700 for March, 1983. Employment losses during the past month in mining, transportation and public utilities and government were more than offset by gains in construction, trade, and services.

A total of 18,300 production workers had average weekly earnings of \$395.09, compared with \$366.81 one year ago. The average weekly hours of 40.9 are up from 39.4 last year, while the average hourly earnings of \$9.66 have increased from \$9.31 in March, 1983.

The Shreveport area has a civilian labor force of 168,800, including 155,400 employed and 13,400 unemployed. The unemployment rate for this area is 7.9 percent, down from the revised February rate of 8.9 percent.

The employment outlook for this area is good. An increase is expected in durable goods manufacturing and in services employment. This growth will be reflected in employment estimates for April and May. Unemployment is expected to move below the present level during the next two months.

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Get reimbursed for up to \$10,000 of your company's costs of hiring qualified veterans and training them in new skills.

Be a winner. Hire a veteran. For more information, call your local Job Service or Veterans Administration office today.



You can receive up to \$10,000 if you train and hire an eligible Vietnam-era or Korean conflict veteran through the provisions of the Emergency Veterans' Job Training Act of 1983 (Public Law 98-77).

The training programs you design should generally be no less than 6 months, except that a program of between 3 and 6 months could be approved under certain circumstances. To qualify, your program must offer training in:

- an occupation in a growth industry; or
- an occupation requiring new technical skills; or
- an occupation for which demand for labor exceeds the supply.

You must certify that you plan to hire the veteran upon the completion of the training. Adequate facilities for training must be available; wages and benefits must be no less than those normally paid, and training cannot be for a position for which the veteran already qualifies.

Your reimbursement will be 50 percent of the starting wage up to a maximum of \$10,000 per veteran. Payments will be made at the end of each three-month period of training or can be monthly in the case of employers with fewer than 75 employees.

You may contact the nearest local State Job Service Office or VA Regional Office for details, applications and assistance.